

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1, 3 to 9, 11 to 13, 15 and 16, claims 2, 10 and 14 have been incorporated into claim 1.

The specification has been amended to remove reference to claim 1 and to provide subtitles. The claims have been amended to remove numerals and to delete "in particular" and "know per se". Therefore, the claims are believed to comply with 35 USC 112 and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

Claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 16 have been rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by the Pfeuffer patent and claim 7 has been rejected under 35 USC as being obvious over the same. The Examiner states that Pfeuffer discloses head pieces arranged on one side of the carrier body, each has deflection section and connects the returning section to the carrying section; a lubricating channel for supplying lubricant including a valve having a slot which provided for the passage of the lubricant which is delimited by the slot faces bearing against one another and is permitted to flow when the valve is open.

Applicants traverse these grounds of rejection as claim 1 as amended is novel and inventive over the Pfeuffer patent. The invention provides a cross valve, which crosses the cross section of the lubrication channel. Cross valves allow easy opening and closing of the

valve. The cross section therefor includes cross shaped slot faces which can work, even if the material is a hard one. This is stressed on page 2, first paragraph, last sentence of the application.

On the other hand, Pfeuffer does not provide a cross valve, but a check valve 118 with a plain slot (cf Fig. 6 at ref. Sign 118). This kind of check valve requires elastically deformable materials which is expressively mentioned in col. 14, lines 18 to 25 of the patent. In this paragraph, it is disclosed, that the part which carries the channel and the check valve is made of elastically deformable material; see also Fig. 6 which shows the polymer part 34 which has unique suction member 110 which is elastically deformable. Additionally, it is stressed in col. 13, lines 45 and 46, that this material is an open-cell foam material, in the pore system of which lubricating oil is distributed over the entire suction member. Not only the type of valve is different, but also the material for making the valve need not to be soft one (requirement of an open cell material in the patent).

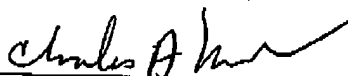
The invention locates the cross valve at the end of the channel, namely in the transfer hole which ends the inner deflection member. In contrast thereto, Pfeuffer arranges the check between a suction member 110 and a further channel 120. This means, lubricant can leak out of the channel 120 in the direction to the deflection member, even if the valve is closed. The invention however, avoids such additional leakage by providing the cross valve in the transfer hole which opens to the deflection means.

The man skilled in the art would not have been inspired to create the invention based on Pfeuffer who stresses the fact, that *"only high viscosity lubricant grease gets into the channel*

120 and no low-viscosity lubricating oil...". On the other hand, the invention ensures that "outside of the relubrication intervals, the lubricant channel is closed when the slots are pressed against one another." (cf page 2, sec. para, last sentence of the English translation), and the lubrication is independent of the viscosity. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

In view of the amendment to the claims and the above remarks, the claims are believed to point out Applicants' patentable contribution. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures

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